

NEW YORK POST
25 June 1985

TWO QUEENS TERRORISTS HUNTED IN SKY BOMBINGS

A WORLDWIDE dragnet tightened last night for two New York-based Sikh terrorists suspected of planting killer bombs aboard two jets in Canada.

Ammand Singh, 33, and Lal Singh, 25, had been on the run from FBI agents who cracked their gang's assassinations plots and plans to overthrow India's government.

But the pair managed to slip out of New York and enter Canada with false passports.

In Canada, they reportedly smuggled baggage bombs onto the two flights. One resulted in one of the worst disasters in aviation history.

Lal Singh's task reportedly was to sabotage a Canadian Pacific Airlines flight from Vancouver. The airline is favored by Indian travelers.

That bomb exploded in luggage — not on the plane, which had landed safely 15 minutes early in Tokyo. Two baggage-handlers were killed in the blast.

Ammand Singh's mission reportedly was the destruction of the Air-India flight to London, which was blown out of the air off Ireland's coast, killing all 329 aboard.

Canadian investiga-

By SAM ROSENTHAL
and PAUL THARP

tors said both bombings were terrorist acts.

Last night, they were attempting to trace the steps of the two suspects after they entered Canada.

Investigators fanned out through Canada's large Sikh communities in Toronto, where 100,000 live, and in Vancouver, where 8000 live.

In Montreal, Canadian intelligence agents also took two young Sikh extremists into custody. They were being questioned in connection with the bombings, according to Indian government sources.

Authorities declined to discuss the extremists or whether they would be charged, but indicated they were not the two fugitives suspected of the plane bombings.

The Toronto Globe and Mail said that Lal Singh flew into Vancouver and checked luggage onto the Tokyo-bound flight carrying 380 people, only two of them In-

dians.

Police in Tokyo speculated that the luggage bomb may have been intended for one of Canadian Pacific's domestic flights, but mistakenly was put aboard the Tokyo flight.

The bomb aboard the doomed Air-India Flight 182 apparently was put aboard in Toronto, where the flight originated and where Ammand Singh was spotted hours before the flight departed, the Globe and Mail said.

But after the plane was aloft, authorities discovered that some luggage put aboard in Toronto may have escaped detection due to a malfunctioning X-ray machine.

When Flight 182 made its scheduled stop in Montreal, a security search turned up three pieces of luggage suspected of containing bombs, and the flight went on toward London and the tragedy.

Meanwhile, in the Flushing section of Queens, where the two Sikh terrorists lived in a middle-class apartment building at 42-04

Sauli St., the trail had grown cold for FBI agents.

The pair — last seen here May 16 — emerged as shadowy figures known to have frequent, late-night visitors, but who kept to themselves.

Neighbors said the two suspects worked in "construction jobs."

"The FBI was all around here looking for them, but no one has seen them for weeks," said one neighbor who asked to remain anonymous.

Ammand and Lal lived next door to one another in second-floor apartments for the last two years, sharing the quarters with several other Sikh roommates, neighbors said.

All Sikhs use the surname Singh. It was not known if the pair is related.

Both always paid their \$460 rent in cash, neighbors said.

Their roommates remain, but the FBI said they are not believed to be connected with Ammand and Lal's alleged activities.

At least five others in the local terror gang have been arrested by the FBI, including suspected ring leader Gurbatap S Birk, 33.